



Parish Website

OUR LADY OF LOURDES HARPENDEN

19TH MARCH 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) (LAETARE SUNDAY)



© Chloe Le Tissier

Parish Priest Canon Anthony Dwyer

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The Parish Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

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twitter: https://twitter.com/rc_olol?lang=en

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Parish Pastoral Council ppc@catholicchurchharpenden.org.uk

Today, we have the marvellous story, from John's gospel, about the cure of a man born blind. As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who was blind from birth. This man is the hero of today's Gospel. The Gospel is much more here than just a miracle story about the man - it is a story about everyone who becomes a follower of Christ.

The disciples ask Jesus, "Why was this man born blind? Was it the result of his own sins or the sins of his parents?" Jesus turns the question around: saying neither the man nor his parents sinned to cause this. The real reason was so that the glory and power of God should be made evident before their eyes, so that their own blindness could be cured.

All the way through, the story emphasises that the man was blind from birth. To heal him is to help him begin a completely new life which he had never before experienced. He will be able to experience the light that Jesus brings: "I am the Light of the World." To see is to be bathed in that light. If we do not know Jesus we are living in darkness.

In the beginning of the story, the man is blind- he cannot see; he is a beggar - he has nothing; he is an outsider - no one accepts him. He is a man without Christ in his life. But in the end, because he can see, he becomes a disciple of Jesus. It is the inevitable outcome.

We are to be people of the light, people of integrity, people transfused with light, the light of truth and goodness and love. For that we need to see Jesus and the Gospel ever more clearly. Then, let this be our prayer today, along with the beggar in the gospel:
Lord, that I may see.



FRIDAYS IN LENT

Each Friday of Lent, Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. Friday is the traditional day for 'making the Stations', so attending Mass, and the Stations of the Cross, during Lent, is a positive activity during this season.

LENTEN ALMS

Traditionally, during Lent, anything that we save through self-denial is donated to the 'Lenten Alms'. Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. You can place your contributions in the 'box' to the right of Our Lady's Altar, or, if you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your contribution, you can use one of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal envelopes, which will be found in the porch, and return it to the Parish Office.

LENT & EASTER DAY BY DAY BOOKS

Day by Day books for Lent and Easter 2023 are available in the Repository and they each cost £1. They are an excellent way to prepare for the seasons of Lent and Easter.

PARISH MEETING

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), is now just over a year old. One of its duties is to have an Annual Parish Meeting, which is now due. This will take place next **Sunday, 26th March, at 3.00pm, in the Undercroft**. If you are wondering just what the PPC does, this will be an opportunity to hear what has been happening, and it will also be an opportunity to acknowledge some of the other activities, that have been taking place in the parish, during the past year.



LENT FAST DAY

Thank you for your contributions last weekend for the CAFOD Lent Fast Day. £2,139.20 was contributed. If you haven't yet made a contribution, it is not too late to do so. CAFOD envelopes will be found in the porch, and can be returned to the Parish Office. You can also donate online, direct to CAFOD, <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day>

ANN TURNER RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Ann Turner. Ann's Requiem Mass will be tomorrow, Monday 20th March at 10.00am. We remember all Ann's family in our prayers at this time

DARREN MCKAY RIP

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Darren McKay. Darren's Funeral will be on Tuesday 28th March at 11.00am. We remember all Darren's family in our prayers at this time

- **NB. There will be no 9.15am Mass on Monday 20th March**

PRAYER REQUESTS

From time to time, there may be a person, or intention, you would like to pray for. If so, there is now a book available, on the table with the gifts, for you write down the prayer intention. The book will be brought up, at those Masses, where there is an offertory procession, and placed on the Altar.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS - GREAT START

53 parishioners volunteered to be their local street or area 'Good Neighbour' representative, which is a wonderful start in our quest to simply reach out to those Catholic families who live nearby. The launch meeting last Sunday was well attended and achieved the first step of bringing people together who normally do not meet. Energised by this interaction they will now start the process of contacting their neighbour, simply to say 'hello' and ask about their welfare. The initial contact will be by a hand-delivered letter from Canon Anthony to all households on the parish database. Should you not receive one in the next four weeks then please email the parish office because it suggests that you may not have registered your presence in the parish. Most areas are now covered, but extra help is still needed in the Roundwood, The Avenues, Central Harpenden, Ox Lane, Manland, Milton Road to Dalkeith Road, Eastmoor Park/East Common and West Common areas so please volunteer if you are able. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code below to see which area you live in.

*Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Harpenden - Seeking Christ Together.
Our aim is to be a parish of Missionary Disciples, helping everyone to realise that they have a call through their Baptism, finding and sharing the good news, and seeking Christ together.*



EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION

Thank you for your contributions last Sunday for the Easter Flowers. There will be another chance to donate after all Masses this weekend.

Donations can also be made via the card machine in the porch. In addition, a Lily may be purchased (at £5) in memory of a loved one.



Please write clearly the name of the loved one in **CAPITAL LETTERS** on an envelope, place the donation of £5 inside and hand it in with the flower collection after Mass, or post through the Presbytery letterbox or drop it into Melanie in the Parish Office. Their names will then be added to a remembrance book which will be

displayed in the Church during the Easter season.

GETTING MARRIED?

Couples intending to get married, need to give at least six months' notice, as required by the Diocese. Pre-marriage preparation, provides an opportunity to reflect, not just on the wedding, which is for a day, but on the marriage, which is

for life, as well as looking at the other necessary arrangements. Anyone getting married within the next year should be in contact with Canon Dwyer. If you know of couples hoping to marry in the coming year, please draw their attention to this notice.

MOTHER'S DAY

Wishing all our Mothers in the Parish a Very Happy Mother's Day.



REPOSITORY NEW STOCK

The Repository has a new range of attractive colouring books for children, also gifts and cards for Birthdays, Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and much more. Everything is very reasonably priced, come and have a look.





EASTER CONCERT

Performance of a new cantata, written in the wake of the pandemic and in gratitude to the NHS **this will be held next SATURDAY 25TH MARCH AT 3PM**

Tickets on the door Adults £10, children under 18 FREE NHS & Care workers FREE. It is in the afternoon to encourage a large audience - to include children, families and those unable to attend evening concerts so readily. It will last for approximately 1.5 hours with refreshments served afterwards.

GOOD FRIDAY

CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our children's Stations of the Cross will be at 11.30am on Good Friday 7th April, and will last about 45 minutes. This is a really good opportunity for children to understand and take part in Christ's Passion on Good Friday. We are looking for children to take parts in the form of a tableau for each station. The children have to be from years 3 to 6, to take part. **We need about 12 actors (no speaking parts), who will have to be in church from 9:30am on Good Friday.** We will do the rehearsal, have a small break, and then perform our Stations of the Cross at 11.30am. This allows any other family members to join in The Walk of Witness in the town, and then join us in church. If your child wants to be part of the Stations of the Cross, please email Maria (maria@oloughlin.co.uk) or phone 01582 624024 by Monday 3rd April. In the event of too many volunteers we will take the first names on the list.

YOUTH OF THE PARISH AND BEYOND
You are warmly invited to join us for our monthly youth friendly mass this Saturday 18th March, & again on 29th April at 6pm. Get in touch with the parish office if you would like to contribute with your musical and singing talents.



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

Join us every Wednesday after the 9.15am Mass for a Parishioner led Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. Everyone is welcome.

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass for Matrimony at the Cathedral will be celebrated by the Cardinal on Saturday 13th May at 2.30pm for all couples celebrating a significant Wedding Anniversaries. If you would like to attend please send your details into the Parish Office, please include the date you were married, and contact details by 30th March.

HOMELESS GROUP
Keystage Housing would like donations of Easter eggs (small or large) for the residents of their Homeless Hub. If you are able to help with this please place donations in the yellow donation bin before Easter or contact Cathy Seaton cmann100@hotmail.com

WESTMINSTER'S ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

All are invited to join the Diocese of Westminster's annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 21st to 28th July 2023, led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited via the Tangney Tours portal at: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/westminster-lourdes> If you have previously indicated 'St Frai Pilgrim' on an Expression of Interest Form, or know of someone with significant medical and mobility needs who intends to come to Lourdes, contact the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798

9173 immediately, so the Medical Team and can look into assisting with requirements and care. Similarly, all individuals or groups intending to travel independently to join Westminster in Lourdes, by making their own travel and accommodation arrangement, must confirm this in writing to the Pilgrimage Office by 30th April 2023 as well as submit payment towards the Pilgrims' Levy at £35 per pilgrim. Visit the Lourdes Pilgrimage web page <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173.

CATENIANS IN OUR PARISH

The local group of the Catenian Association has changed its name to Harpenden, Luton & District as it better reflects the area it covers. As well as meetings socially once a month and organising activities. The Association is one of the main sponsors of 'Flame', the largest gathering of Catholic young people in the UK. Organisers of the Catholic Schools 6th Form, Public Speaking challenge, held regionally at Herts University with the national final in Manchester every year. It's bursary fund also contributes to helping our young people in other ways. We also support each other and the mission of the Catholic Church. We are a group of Catholic men and families who in this increasingly secular world, meet safe in the knowledge that we are universal network of like-minded people who share the same Gospel values. It would be wonderful to increase membership from Our Lady of Lourdes parish so do email John Williams at john.williams58@btinternet.com or Dennis Cooper at denniscooper4@outlook.com who we will happily provide more obligation free information.

HARPENDEN TRUST SENIORS FAIR

Come along on **Tuesday 4th April from 10.30am - 1.30pm at the Eric Morecambe Centre Rothamsted Park** for the Seniors Fair. Over 30 local organisations will be in attendance to promote what is on offer for seniors locally. Refreshments and a collection box for the Foodbank will be available, all items will be gratefully received.

FOR THE DIARY

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL
in the Presbytery Garden.
Sunday 18th June at 3pm



LOURDES HALL SOUTHDOWN ROAD HARPENDEN

Available for Hire, and for one off Parties
for more details contact

Caretaker: Mr Simon Lowe
Mobile: 07859 943 348
Email: harpendenct@rcdow.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEK

Saturday 18th March 6.00pm	Lent feria 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Michelle Canny RIP
Sunday 19th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) (Laetare Sunday) People of the Parish Marie Dube RIP (Recently Deceased) Maureen Dunn RIP Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.
Monday 20th March 10.00am	ST JOSEPH, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese Requiem Mass Ann Turner
Tuesday 21st March 9.15am	Lent feria Celia Timming RIP
Wednesday 22nd March 9.15am	Lent feria Doran Family (Special Intention) Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Thursday 23rd March 11.00am	Lent feria May Doyle RIP (Anniversary)
Friday 24th March 7.00pm	Lent feria Mary Lord RIP (Recently Deceased) Followed by Stations of the Cross
Saturday 25th March 12 Noon 3.00pm 6.00pm	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Baptism Logan Family Concert Gratitude to the NHS 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Marie & PJ Mahoney RIP
Sunday 26th March 8.30am 9.45am 11.30am	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) People of the Parish Mary Timlin RIP (Anniversary) Margaret Seaton RIP (Anniversary) Zoom Code 883 7014 5568.

CONFESSIONS - SATURDAYS
10.30AM - 11.00AM &
AFTER THE 6.00PM VIGIL MASS